

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /075 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6051
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JAPAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, US
SUBJ: PRIMIN FUKUDA MEETS FOREIGN PRESS

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN PRESS MARCH 10, PRIMIN FUKUDA
PROMISED FLATLY TO ACHIEVE 6.7 PERCENT JAPANESE GROWTH TARGET,
REITERATED JAPANESE CONCERN THAT DELICATE BALANCE ON KOREAN PENI-
NSULA NOT BE UPSET, AND, WHILE AGREEING WITH NEED TO RESPECT HUMAN
RIGHTS, STATED EACH COUNTRY WILL HAVE ITS OWN APPROACH. END
SUMMARY.

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1. IN HIS PREPARED REMARKS TO FOREIGN PRESS CLUB MARCH 10, PRIMIN
FUKUDA TOOK UP ISSUES OF LDP REFORM AND ECONOMIC "NORMALIZATION."
AS LDP PRESIDENT, FUKUDA SAID HIS MOST IMPORTANT TASK WAS TO RE-
VITALIZE PARTY. HE WAS CONVINCED, HE SAID, THAT IF LDP COULD DIS-
SOLVE FACTIONS, IMPROVE PARTY ORGANIZATION TO INCLUDE ALL SOCIAL
ELEMENTS AND ACHIEVE "PEOPLE-BASED" FINANCIAL SUPPORT, ELECTORATE

WOULD RETURN TO LDP.

2. AS PRIMIN, FUKUDA SAID IT WAS MAJOR TASK TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC "NORMALIZATION." WITH STIMULUS PROVIDED BY JFY-76 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AND JFY-77 BUDGET, FUKUDA REAFFIRMED GOJ 6.7 PERCENT GROWTH TARGET, "HIGHEST AMONG DC'S. HE THEN PROMISED FLATLY TO "SEE TO IT" THAT THIS GOAL WOULD BE REALIZED. HE ADDED PROMISE THAT GOJ WOULD BE PROMPT AND FLEXIBLE IN TAKING COUNTERMEASURES SHOULD BOTTLE-NECKS EMERGE.

3. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND LATER AT LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT, FUKUDA SAID HE WOULD BE SPEAKING OUT AGAINST PROTECTIONISM AND HOPED WORLD'S LEADERS MIGHT PLEDGE TO AVOID PRE-WWI MISTAKES WHICH LED TO GLOBAL TRAGEDY.

4. IN QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD, FUDUDA RESTATED JAPANESE CONCERN THAT DELICATE BALANCE ON KOREAN PENINSULA NOT BE UPSET WITH POTENTIALLY DESTABLIZING CONSEQUENCES FOR JAPAN AND ALL ASIA. HE ADDED TROOP WITHDRAWALS WOULD NOT AFFECT JAPANESE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER WITHDRAWAL OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM ROK WOULD UPSET PENINSULA BALANCE, FUKUDA SAID HE WAS NO EXPERT ON MILITARY MATTERS AND THUS DID NOT KNOW BUT, HE RECALLED, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE DURING HIS RECENT TOKYO VISIT HAD MENTIONED ONLY US GROUND-TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

5. FUKUDA SAID HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE RESPECTED, QUESTION WAS HOW TO APPROACH ISSUE CONCRETELY. EACH COUNTRY WOULD HAVE ITS OWN APPROACH. HE DECLINED COMMENT ON "EXTREMELY DELICATE QUESTION" OF WHAT ADVICE HE WOULD GIVE THE PRESIDENT ON ASIAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATION.

6. ASKED WHETHER JAPAN NOW FELT IT WAS TARGET OF PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES SIMILAR TO THOSE IT FELT BEFORE WWII, FUKUDA SAID "HOOVER RECESSION" LED TO PROTECTIONISM AND BLOCK TRADING SYSTEMS WHICH DEPRESSED GLOBAL TRADE BY 40 PERCENT AND GLOBAL PRODUCTION BY 30 PERCENT, SITUATION WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO GLOBAL POLITICAL TRAGEDY. IN WAKE OF RECENT OIL SHOCK, FUKUDA SAID HE THOUGHT SIMILAR PATTERNS HAD DEVELOPED. THESE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO NEW TRADING BLOCKS, BUT WERE EVIDENCE OF PROTECTIONIST CURRENTS, WHICH, IF UNCHECKED, COULD LEAD TO DEPRESSION AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS. THIS WAS NOT ONLY JAPANESE LESSON BUT WORLDWIDE EXPERIENCE.

7. RESPONDING TO OTHER QUESTIONS, FUKUDA SAID HE HOPED TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH ASEAN AND INDOCHINA STATES, VISITING SEA IF POSSIBLE LATER THIS YEAR OR SENDING FONGMIN HATOYAMA. HE PROMISED SEA ECONOMIC HELP "TO EXTENT POSSIBLE." HE SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RESOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL ISSUE WITH USSR, BUT PROMISED TO PERSIST, APPROACHING SOVIET RELATIONS PATIENTLY, STEP BY STEP.

RE YEN REVALUATION, FUKUDA SAID ONLY HE WELCOMED YEN APPRECIATION BECAUSE IT REFLECTED INCREASED FOREIGN CONFIDENCE IN PERFORMANCE OF JAPANESE ECONOMY.

8. COMMENT. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN PRESS SHORTLY BEFORE HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, FUKUDA FOLLOWED PRECEDENT SET BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER MIKI. HE BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND, PARTICULARLY ON SENSITIVE ISSUE OF KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT HE WAS WELL RECEIVED AND HAS UNDOUBTEDLY GENERATED SOME PRE-VISIT PUBLICITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, US, (FUKUDA, TAKEO)
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